

January 23, 1984

Memo to File:

RE: Inspection of Silver Reef Mine
ACT/053/002
Washington County, Utah


On January 20, 1984, Division members Steve Cox, Pam Grubaugh-Littig, Tom Portle and Tom Tetting inspected the Silver Reef Mine operated by 5-M Incorporated. The main gate was locked and no one was on the property at 10:00 a.m.

In accordance with an inspection on August 4, 1983 and a subsequent letter to Jerry Glazier (operator) sent September 16, 1983, the company's mining activity was required to cease. This action by the Division was taken under authority of Section 40-8-14 of the Mined Land Reclamation Act which requires that a surety be provided to the Division prior to commencement of mining operations. Operations have been continuing since 1979 on an intermittent basis. The recent inspection expected that no new mining activity had been undertaken since the previous September.

The following paragraph discusses the current minesite as viewed upon arrival. Three large, white (4 meter diameter by approximately 15 meters long) steel liquid storage tanks were noticed which had been stored alongside of the access road. Another one (somewhat shorter) had also been placed near the office area. Further investigation showed that a large 50 meter by 50 meter asphalt leach pad had been newly constructed north of the previous leaching area. PVC pipe was partially installed. A large trommel had been brought on site and so had a dump truck, newly crushed ore pile, two old tank trucks and three transformers. The combined acreage observed to be disturbed includes: the access roads, one-two acres; office area, 1.0 acre; mined sites, one-two acres; leaching facility, 12-15 acres. At a minimum, this is 15 acres by rough estimate.

It is my opinion that several sections of the Act have been violated by the operator. These include 40-8-14 (surety requirements, not fulfilled), 40-8-12 (topsoil not saved, Rule M-10[14]) and 40-8-15 (annual operating reports not filed). These violations may prevent objectives of the Act from being implemented.

It is my recommendation that according to Section 40-8-8(4) of the Act a hearing should be called to discuss the violations before the Board with the operator present. The operations conducted between September 1983 and January 1984 constitute a knowledgeable and willful evasion of the Act and are subject to penalties of Section 40-8-9(3). The Division should see this case through to final resolution including the imposing of fines and/or withdrawal of approval to mine. Awareness should be maintained that this operation is a highly "visible" concern adjacent to a suburban housing development in a historic mining district near St. George.

THOMAS N. TETTING 
ENGINEERING GEOLOGIST

TNT/btb